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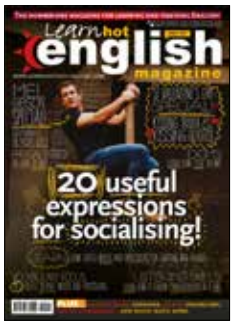
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EDITOR'S INTRO

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Hi, everybody, and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine!
This month, we've got lots of fun material for you to learn English. For a start, there's a new section: Dr Fingers' Error Correction Clinic. Well, actually, it's a section we had a few years ago that we've decided to bring back. We think you'll find it really useful. Read over the incorrect sentences and try to correct the error. Then, listen to check your answers.

Our feature article this month is on Mel Gibson. You can read lots of interesting things about him. We're also looking at some "gaffes" – those silly or stupid comments people make, often by mistake. Prince Philip – the Queen's husband – is famous for his gaffes. You can read about some of the funny (and not so funny!) things that he's said over the years.

Of course, that's not all, we're also looking at Bristol (England), skiing vocabulary, phrasal verbs with the verb "to take", "sea creature" idioms, kissing trivia and quotes (it's almost St Valentine's Day!) and wind farms.

Well, that's all for now. Have a great month, learn lots of English and see you again next time for some more language learning fun!

Andy

PS Remember to sign up for the newsletter so you can receive lots of FREE language lessons. Just visit our website (**www.learnhotenglish.com**) and enter your name and e-mail address in the box on the right-hand side of the page.









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PHRASAL VERBS TAKE

The verb "to take" has many different uses. Generally, we use this verb to refer to the action of carrying/taking something from one place to another. For example, "I took my car to the garage so they could repair it."

TAKE IT OUT OF YOU
TO MAKE YOU TIRED; TO EXHAUST YOU.



TAKE OVER A BUSINESS
TO TAKE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF A COMPANY.



TAKE IT OUT ON SOMEONE
TO HURT OR ATTACK SOMEONE (MENTALLY/VERBALLY/PHYSICALLY) BECAUSE YOU ARE FRUSTRATED, ANGRY, ETC.



TAKE UP A NEW HOBBY
TO START DOING A NEW HOBBY



TAKE SOMEONE UP ON AN OFFER
TO ACCEPT AN OFFER; TO AGREE TO DO SOMETHING THAT ANOTHER PERSON PROPOSES.



TAKE OFF
TO REMOVE CLOTHING.



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TRACK 1

SEA-CREATURE IDIOMS

This month we are looking at some sea-creature idioms.

GLOSSARY
slippery *adj*
wet and smooth
an eel *n*
a long fish with a body like a snake
fry *n*
young or newly-hatched fish
an oyster *n*
a large, flat shellfish. Some are eaten, others produce pearls
a shark *n*
a large fish with big teeth. Some eat humans



As slippery as an eel

Someone who is "as **slippery** as an **eel**" is dishonest and cannot be trusted.
"I wouldn't go into business with him. He's as slippery as an eel."



A red herring

Something or someone who takes your attention away from the main subject. For example, a character in a film who appears to be the murderer, when really it is someone else.
"For the first 200 pages of the book I was convinced that Lord Melbury was the murderer, but that was just a red herring."



Be packed like sardines

If people are "packed like sardines", there are many people in a very small space.
"There were fifty of us in the train carriage. We were packed like sardines."



Small fry

People or organisations which are not large or important.
"These new clients of ours are small **fry**. We're used to dealing with much bigger organisations."



The world is your oyster

If the "world is your **oyster**", you have the ability and freedom to do anything or go anywhere.
"You're young, healthy, intelligent, and you don't have any commitments – the world is your oyster."



A shark

Someone who tricks people in order to get their money. This often consists of giving bad advice about selling, buying or investing in something.
"When you are asking for information about where to invest, beware of the **sharks**."

TRACK 2

Little Jokes

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers.



1. Waiter, there's a **fly** in my soup. ☐
2. Waiter, what's this fly doing in my soup? ☐
3. Waiter, my plate is wet. ☐
4. Waiter, what is this? ☐
5. Waiter, there's a **button** in my soup. ☐
6. Waiter, this **lobster** has only got one **claw**. ☐
7. Waiter, there is soup on the menu. ☐
8. Waiter, this glass is dirty. ☐



ENDINGS

A: I don't know. I'd better call the manager – **I can't tell one insect from another.**

B: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realise you wanted a clean one.

C: He must have been in a fight, sir. I'll bring you the winner.

D: Oh, really. I was sure that I'd cleaned it properly.

E: Swimming, sir.

F: Don't worry, sir, the **spider** in the bread will **get** it.

G: It's not wet, sir. That's the soup.

H: Thank you, sir. I was wondering what had happened to it.



GLOSSARY

a fly *n*
a small insect with two wings
a button *n*
a small round object on a shirt for fastening the two halves of the shirt
a lobster *n*
a sea creature with a hard shell and two large claws (see below)
a claw *n*
two pointed parts at the end of a lobster's legs. Used for holding/taking things
I can't tell one X from another *exp*
I can't see the difference
a spider *n*
an insect with eight legs
to get something *exp*
in this case: to eat/kill it

TRACK 3

GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

JESUS SAVES. COS HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN AFFORD TO.

HALITOSIS IS BETTER THAN NO BREATH AT ALL.

SUICIDE IS THE MOST SINCERE FORM OF SELF-CRITICISM.

"TO DO IS TO BE." (ROUSSEAU)
"TO BE IS TO DO." (SATRE)
"DO BE DO BE DO." (SINATRA)

KEEP THIS TRAIN STATION TOILET TIDY. PLEASE THROW YOUR TICKETS OUT OF THE WINDOW.

WHEN GOD MADE MAN, SHE WAS ONLY TESTING.

GLOSSARY

to save *n*
two meanings: a) to rescue you from danger; b) to collect money
halitosis *n*
breath that smells bad
self-criticism *n*
judging your own actions, words, ideas, etc
to keep something tidy *exp*
to maintain everything in an ordered way
to test *vb*
to experiment; to try

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TRACK 4

DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: IDIOMS SPEAKING & TALKING



This month: Speaking and Talking.



Be a recipe for disaster

To be something that will cause a disaster or something bad to happen.
"Going into business with your husband will be a **recipe** for disaster."



Not a ghost of a chance; not have a chance/hope in hell

If something "doesn't have a ghost of a chance" of succeeding, it will never work well.
"If we don't sort out these problems, this new idea won't have a ghost of a chance of succeeding."



Go back to the drawing board

To start planning something again because the first idea wasn't successful, or it wasn't accepted or approved.
"Now that they've rejected our proposal, we'll have to go back to the drawing board."



It'll all end in tears

It will end badly.
"I know they're in love, but she lives in Australia and he lives in Singapore. I think it'll all end in **tears**."



Be the final nail in the coffin

To be the action or event that finally destroys or finishes something.
"The way that she insulted him in public was the final **nail** in the **coffin** of their relationship."



Fight a losing battle

To be trying to do something that has no hope of succeeding.
"Trying to get all this work done by tomorrow night is like fighting a losing battle."



Be down on your luck

To be suffering because everything is going badly for you.
"He lost his house, his wife and his car, and just this morning he had some bad news from the doctor. He's been a bit down on his luck recently."



Go down like a lead balloon

Not to be successful; to be a complete and utter failure.
"Nobody liked the new play and the critics destroyed it. It went down like a **lead balloon**."

GLOSSARY

a recipe *n*
a list of ingredients and instructions on how to make food
tears *n*
small droplets of liquid that come out of your eyes
a nail *n*
a long, thin, sharp piece of metal. Nails are often hit into the wall
a coffin *n*
a large box for a dead body
lead *n*
a type of metal: pb
a balloon *n*
a) a large, strong bag filled with gas. You can travel in it; b) a small rubber bag filled with air. Often used as decoration at parties

TRACK 5

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



The start of a new section in which Dr Fingers corrects typical English errors.





Activity

Read the sentence, find the error and correct the sentence. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck! Afterwards, you can read the error analysis section. See answers below.

1. Your trousers are broken.
2. It's six thirty o'clock.
3. She didn't do any mistakes.
4. After three months in bed, he became better.
5. Come to here so I can talk to you.
6. I am agree with you.
7. Different from me, she is very good at English.
8. Let me examine your pulse.
9. Could you lend to me some money?
10. I have a free time.
11. I forgot my coat at home.
12. We asked the waiter the bill.
13. We borrowed some money to them.
14. It is a very tired job.
15. I'm not doing very much in the moment.
16. It all depends in your attitude.
17. The programme is about the affects of smoking.
18. We couldn't afford paying for the house.
19. We were afraid to miss the plane.
20. I'll help you after I will finish eating.







Answers & Error Analysis

1. We normally use "ripped" or "torn" for broken clothes.
2. It isn't necessary to add "o'clock".
3. We use the construction "make a mistake".
4. In English, we use the expression "to get better".
5. We say "come here" with no preposition.
6. We use the verb "to agree" without the auxiliary verb "to be".
7. You need the expression "unlike me".
8. In English, you "feel" someone's pulse.
9. There is no preposition with the verb "to lend".
10. "Free time" is uncountable so you need to use "some".
11. We "leave" things at home.
12. In English, you ask someone "for" something.
13. You borrow money "from" someone.
14. The adjective for describing the effect that something has on you is "tiring".
15. We say "at the moment".
16. We use the preposition "on" with depend.
17. The noun is "effect"; the verb is "to affect".
18. The verb "to afford" is followed by an infinitive.
19. If you are "afraid to do something", you don't want to do that thing because you are frightened. If you are "afraid of doing something", you are worried about something happening.
20. "After" is followed by a present simple verb when it has a future meaning.



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TRACK 6

Dictionary of slang

Here we've got some examples of how to say things in different situations.

Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
A friend has been taking drugs. You explain this situation to a friend.	He is suffering from the effects of a hallucinogenic substance.	He's a bit high.	He's stoned; he's out of it; he's out of his head.
You think a film was really, really impressive. You tell a friend.	It really impressed me.	It was incredible.	It was out of this world; it was awesome; it was amazing.
Your husband has had an **affair** with another person.	He has been unfaithful to me.	He has had an affair.	He's a two-timer; he's a cheater; he's been two-timing me.
A man often makes sexist comments. You tell a friend.	He is disrespectful and insulting towards women.	He's sexist.	He's an MCP (a male chauvinist pig).
You are driving and you notice a police car behind you.	Oh, no, some officers of the law.	Oh, no, the police.	Oh, no, the cops / the fuzz / the pigs / the **5:0**. (US)
You were at a party and you didn't know it was so late.	I was quite unaware of how time had progressed.	I didn't realise what time it was.	I completely lost **track** of time.









GLOSSARY

Please note that some of the words in this glossary box are literal translations of parts of idiomatic expressions.

an affair *n*
a relationship with someone who isn't your wife/husband/boyfriend/girlfriend, etc

5:0 *abbr inform*
the police. This comes from the television police series with the great surfing music *Hawaii 5:0*

a track *n*
a metal line that trains travel on

Mel Gibson

He's confident, he's outspoken, and he's full of controversy. He's the **actor-turned-director**, and Hollywood **enfant terrible**. He is Mel Gibson. Here's a quick look at the career of the man himself. Feature articles by Rob Julian



Mel Gibson In a nutshell

Name: Mel Columcille Gerard Gibson
Occupation: actor /director
Born: Peekskill, New York, 3rd January 1956.He is the sixth of eleven children.
Educated: Australia. Graduated from national Institute of Dramatic Arts (Sydney 1977)
Marital status: married to Robyn Moore (1980) 7 children.
Religion: Roman Catholic
Likes: speaking his mind
Dislikes: liberal Catholicism
Personal fortune: about US $850 million

Leading Man

Back in 1978, a movie was made in Australia on a **budget** of only 30,000 dollars. It was a science fiction story, **set** some time in the near future. It was filmed outside Melbourne on public roads. It had no special effects, only **stunts** involving modified cars. The budget was low. So low, in fact, that the actors had to wear **vinyl** suits instead of leather ones because they were cheaper to buy.

However, the film achieved incredible success, and went on to earn $100 million world wide. It held a record in the Guinness Book of Records as the highest profit-to-cost ratio of a motion picture, and only lost the record in 2000 to *The Blair Witch Project*. The movie was *Mad Max*. It starred a young Australian actor by the name of Mel Gibson. Since then, Gibson has **never looked back**. *Mad Max* was followed by several **sequels**. *Mad Max 2* launched Gibson's international **career**. It was a world-wide **box office hit**. *Mad Max 3 -Beyond Thunderdome* starred Tina Turner and was also a hit at the box office.

Moving on

Mel's next starring role was in *Gallipoli*, an Australian classic about the First World War that never achieved the international success **it deserved**. In 1984, Mel starred as Fletcher Christian in *The Bounty*. Gibson and Anthony Hopkins, his co-star on the film, did not **get along during the shoot**. At the time, Anthony Hopkins was a **teetotaller**, and Mel Gibson was **struggling** with alcoholism.

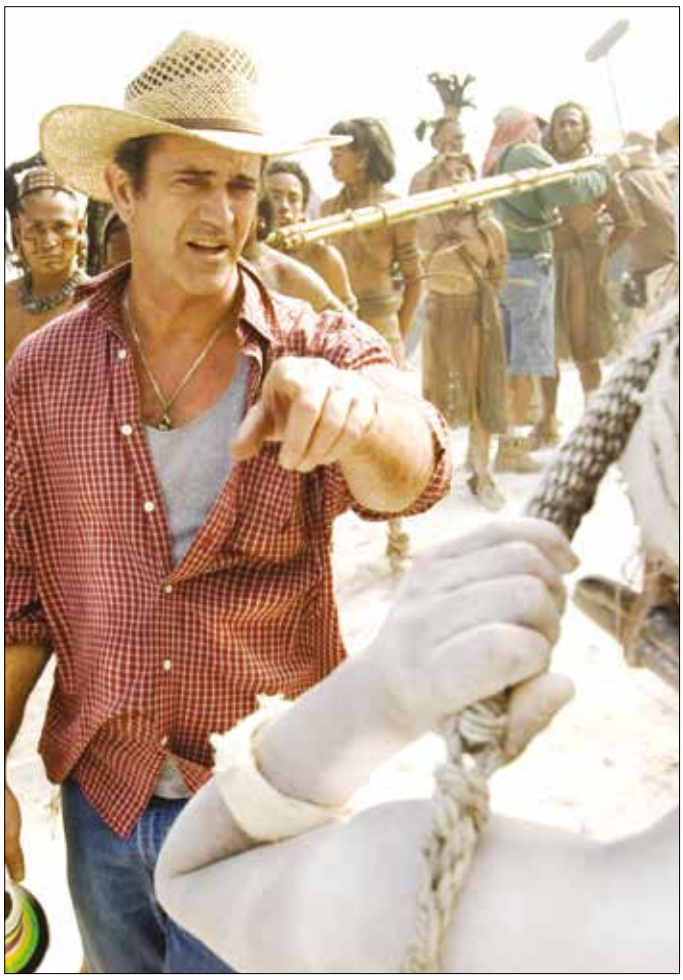
Hollywood signed Gibson to make the *Lethal Weapon* series in 1987, and this firmly established him in the action-movie genre.

Gibson then changed from action to classical drama, playing the Danish prince in the play *Hamlet*. Gibson was **cast alongside** many experienced Shakespearean actors, which was a **challenge** for him. He described working with his **fellow cast members** as similar to being "thrown into the boxing ring with Mike Tyson".

Behind the Camera

Gibson **broke new ground** when he made *Braveheart*. Gibson said that when the *Braveheart* script arrived and was recommended by his agents, he **rejected** it because he thought he was too old to play the part. But after careful thinking, he decided to not only act in the film, but to direct it as well.

Braveheart's success established Gibson permanently in Hollywood. Gibson received two Academy Awards (Best Director and Best Picture) for his 1995 direction of *Braveheart*. In the movie, Gibson starred as Sir William Wallace, a thirteenth-century Scottish freedom fighter.



He also played a revolutionary hero in 2000's *The Patriot*, which was set during the American War of Independence. Gibson **has Irish roots** and has a history of playing characters with **bad feelings towards** the British. This has caused some people to suggest he is anti-British.

Controversy

Gibson's first controversy as a director was with the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. It was filmed entirely in Aramaic, Latin and Hebrew. Because it was difficult to get the movie industry interested in the movie's potential, he needed to spend 25 million dollars of his own money. It has a lot of graphic violence, which earned it an **"R" rating** in some countries. It is also considered by some to be anti-semitic. However, despite the criticism, it was a box office success. Its popularity with Christian audiences helped it to gross over $612 million. Gibson's latest movie, *Apocalypto*, seems to continue Gibson's taste for the controversial. ✪

GLOSSARY

an actor-turned-director *n*
an actor who has started directing films
an enfant terrible *n*
someone who is clever but unconventional and who causes problems or embarrassment for friends and family
a budget *n*
money allocated for a project, department, etc
set *adj*
if a film is "set" in a particular place, it happens in that place
a stunt *n*
a dangerous or exciting piece of action in a film
vinyl *n*
a type of strong plastic
never to look back *exp*
never to think about the things that happened in the past because you are so successful
a sequel *n*
a film that continues the story of a previous film
a career *n*
the job you choose to do for the majority of your professional life
a box office hit *n*
a film that makes a lot of money because lots of people go to see it
to deserve *vb*
if you feel that a film "deserved" more positive criticism, you think it should have had more positive criticism because it was good
to get along with someone *n*
to have a good relationship with someone
during the shoot *exp*
while the film was being made
a teetotaller *n*
a person who drinks no alcohol
to struggle *vb*
if you are "struggling", you are fighting against something
to be cast alongside someone *exp*
to be given a part in the same film as someone
a challenge *n*
something that is difficult for you
a fellow cast member *n*
another person who is acting in the same film as you
to break new ground *exp*
to do something new and different
to reject *vb*
if you "reject" something, you don't accept it
to have Irish roots *exp*
to have an Irish ancestor
to have bad feelings towards someone *exp*
to dislike someone; to feel hatred towards someone
an "R" rating *n*
if a film has an "R" rating, you have to be 18 to see it

Apocalypto

Apocalypto, like other Mel Gibson movies such as *Braveheart*, *The Passion of the Christ*, and even *Mad Max 2*, is another **epic** with a strong **moral message**. Here's the story: a loving husband, father and **skilled hunter** called "Jaguar Paw" leads a happy life in his small jungle village, but there is trouble **threatening paradise**. Early one morning, a band of warriors attack the village. They take many prisoners and force the **captives** to march through the jungle. They go through lands **ravaged by plague**, **drought**, **deforestation** and **pollution**, and finally arrive at a Mayan capital, a place of consumption and corruption.

Escape

Once there, the women are **sold into slavery**, while the men are sent to the pyramid to be **sacrificed** to the gods. But Jaguar Paw escapes. He is injured and is hunted constantly. Against impossible odds, he must fight back through the jungle to his home to save his wife and children, and to seek a new beginning for a civilisation that has lost its way.

Jaguar Paw is like a prophet who must endure constant punishment and suffering. He also **bears witness to** the end of civilization. He sees a whole society destroyed because of warfare, disease, environmental destruction and moral collapse. The Mayan civilisation in the movie is like a mirror to our own.

Yet when the Christian missionaries arrive at the end of the film, this is represented as another problem rather than a solution to the moral crisis of the Mayan culture. This gives the film much more appeal to the non-religious moviegoer.

Controversy

The film does have some potential controversies. Gibson is the first big-budget filmmaker to take Mayan civilization as a serious subject. The movie is filmed entirely in Yucatan Mayan, and has many unknown local actors instead of big stars. Many have criticised Gibson for not showing much of the culture's extraordinary achievements in mathematics, astronomy and art. And experts have disputed many details in the Mayan practices and architecture shown in the movie. However, the jungle sequences, shot in Mexico's last remaining rainforest, are exquisitely beautiful. And an angry jaguar, a dangerous waterfall and lethal **quicksand** provide lots of Tarzan-style action. Without Gibson's **maverick** spirit, *Apocalypto* would probably never have been made at all. Thirty minutes or so shorter, and this might have been a masterpiece. It's not perfect, but *Apocalypto* is still a great action movie. ✪





GLOSSARY

an epic *n*
a film whose story extends over a long period of time
a moral message *n*
a message that helps show people how to live or act
skilled *adj*
with a lot of ability
a hunter *n*
a person who tries to catch or kill wild animals
to threaten *vb*
if something "threatens" you, it is a danger to you
paradise *n*
a perfect place
a captive *n*
someone who is caught and placed in prison
ravaged by plague *exp*
destroyed because many people have the plague (a terrible disease that spreads quickly)
drought *n*
a period of time with no rain and very little water
deforestation *n*
if there is "deforestation", many trees in a forest are destroyed
pollution *n*
poisonous or dangerous substances that make the water, land or air dirty
sold into slavery *exp*
if someone is "sold into slavery", that person is sold to another person and must work for nothing
to sacrifice *vb*
to kill someone as part of a religious ceremony
to bear witness to something *exp*
to see something as it happens
quicksand *n*
an area of land with soft, wet sand. If you fall in it, you may die
maverick *adj*
a rebel; someone who does things differently from everyone else

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Mel Gibson Trivia and quotes

Find out more about Mel Gibson by reading about some interesting things he's done and said.

Actor Sean Connery once suggested Gibson should play the next James Bond. Gibson **turned down the role**.

On 28th July 2006, Gibson was arrested on suspicion of **drink driving**. According to a statement by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Gibson was detained while driving along the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu at 2:36 am, and **spouted expletives**, and sexist and anti-Semitic comments.



Mel was the first person to be awarded *People* magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive".

Gibson has an estimated fortune of $850 million, according to the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. The size of his fortune makes him the 47th richest person in the Los Angeles area, and the wealthiest actor in the world.

Gibson recently bought the 2,160-hectare island of Mago, near Fiji, from a Japanese hotel chain for $15 million in 2004. He plans to turn the Pacific paradise into his own personal retreat. The island is currently home to forty native residents – mostly coconut farmers and their families.

Gibson almost didn't get the **role** that made him a star. His agent got him an audition for *Mad Max*, but the night before, Mel got into a **drunken brawl** with three other men at a party. The result? A **swollen nose**, a **cracked jaw**, and various other bumps and **bruises**. Mel **showed up** at the audition the next day looking like a "black and blue pumpkin" (his own words). Mel didn't expect to get the role. However, the director told Mel to come back in two weeks, telling him, "We need **freaks**". When Mel did come back, he wasn't recognised because his **wounds** had **healed**. He got the part.



Mel Gibson Quotes

"I did a lot of crazy things so I'm surprised to be alive."

"Hollywood is a factory. You have to realize that you are working in a factory and you're part of the mechanism. If you break down, you'll be replaced."

"Obviously, nobody wants to touch something filmed in two dead languages (*The Passion of the Christ*). They think I'm crazy, and maybe I am. But maybe I'm a genius."

"I'm not a **preacher**, and I'm not a pastor. But I really feel my career was leading me to make *The Passion of the Christ*. The Holy Ghost was working through me on this film, and I was just directing traffic. I hope the film has the power to **evangelize**."

"I'm not a **done deal**. I'm a work in progress. I'm still extremely **flawed**." Mel talking about his religious beliefs.

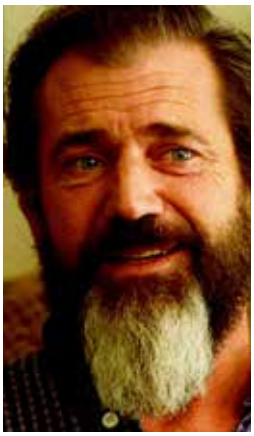
"I might go, and go somewhere no-one can find me. You know where that is? You know where the place is no-one can find you? I was thinking of **pitching my tent** right next to the weapons of mass destruction. Then no-one would find me."

"My dad taught me my faith. I believe what he taught me. The man never lied to me in his life. People said, 'Well, he's just an old **kook**.' He's not an old kook. He's very intelligent.



He's in complete possession of all his mental faculties. And if he says something he has a reason why he says it and he can back it up. **Mensa** wanted this guy, OK? He's very intelligent."

Mel Gibson talking about his father, Hutton Gibson, who is considered a controversial figure due to his outspoken views on religion and morality. He is known for his anti-Semitism. ✪



"…I was thinking of pitching my tent right next to the weapons of mass destruction. Then no-one would find me."

GLOSSARY

to turn down a role *exp*
to say that you don't want a part in a film
drink driving *n*
the crime of driving while you are drunk from too much alcohol
to spout expletives *exp*
to say many bad/taboo words
a role *n*
a part in a film
a drunken brawl *n*
a fight that takes place between people who have been drinking alcohol
a swollen nose *n*
a nose that is bigger than usual because it has been damaged
a cracked jaw *n*
a broken jaw (the lower part of your face below your mouth)
a bruise *n*
a mark on your skin where your skin has been damaged or hit
to show up *phr vb*
to arrive
a freak *n*
an unusual and strange person
a wound *n*
a cut on your body
to heal *vb*
if a wound "heals", it becomes healthy and normal again
a preacher *n*
a member of a religious organisation who gives sermons (official talks)
to evangelize *vb*
if someone "evangelizes", they try to convert you to Christianity
a done deal *n*
a finished product
flawed *adj*
damaged; not perfect
to pitch a tent *exp*
to put up your tent (a kind of house made of fabric) in a place where you are going to sleep
a kook *n inform*
an eccentric person who has beliefs which are different other people's
Mensa *n*
an organization for very intelligent people

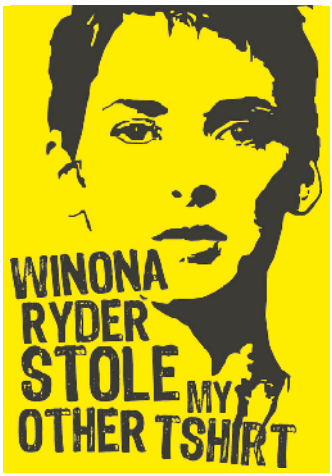
The Bad Boys and Girls of Hollywood

Naughty, Naughty!

We're all capable of doing some silly things, but some people ought to know better. Maybe it's the pressures of **fame**: too much money, too many drugs and attention. Here are some silly stars and their **dumb** moments. By Rob Julian

Miss Stickyfingers

On 12th December 2001, Winona Ryder was arrested for **shoplifting** thousands of dollars' worth of designer clothes and accessories at Saks Fifth Avenue



department store in Beverly Hills, California. Ryder **hired** a top defence **attorney**. Negotiations for a **plea-bargain** failed at the end of summer 2002. During the **trial**, she was also accused of using drugs without valid prescriptions. Ryder was convicted of grand theft and vandalism, but the **jury acquitted her** on the third charge of **burglary**. In December 2002, she was sentenced to three years' probation, 480 hours of community service, $3,700 in **fines**, and $6,355 in repayment to Saks. The judge ordered the actress to attend psychological and **drug counselling**.

"Heeeere's Johnny!"

In 1994, Jack Nicholson was involved in a **road rage** incident. He used a golf club (apparently a number 2 iron) to **smash** the **roof** and **windshield** of another car. The other driver **took**



Nicholson to court. The driver said that he was "severely injured" from "emotional distress". The authorities said the film star became angry after being **cut off** in traffic. **Charges** were **dropped** after Nicholson reached an **out-of-court settlement** with the driver.

Caught with his pants down

On 27th June 1995, Hugh Grant was arrested by the Los Angeles Police "on suspicion of **lewd conduct** in a public place". He had been caught in his car on Sunset Strip with prostitute Divine Brown (also known as Stella Marie Thompson),



who had been paid $50 by Grant. Grant's police **mug-shot** was in every paper across in the world. His explanation was that he was exhausted by all the interviews for the film *Nine Months* (he had done 12 interviews that day), and he didn't know what he was doing (well, if he didn't, Divine Brown certainly did). Naturally his excuse wasn't taken seriously by the court. He received a heavy fine and two years **probation**.

Sometimes you have to put your foot down!

In February 2000, actress Halle Berry was involved in a car accident when she hit another vehicle after



running through a red light. So, what do you do after a car accident? You run away of course. Berry **put her foot down** and drove away before the police arrived. Berry, who had sustained a head injury, later said she had no memory of the accident. She pleaded guilty to a **misdemeanour** charge. She paid a fine, made repayments to the other driver, did community service, and was placed on three years' probation.

A bad telephone connection

In June 2005, Russell Crowe was arrested and charged with **assault** by New York City police. The incident took place at the Mercer Hotel, New York. Apparently, Crowe's telephone in his hotel room wasn't working, and the hotel concierge refused to help him make a call. So,



Crowe threw a telephone at him. The concierge needed to be treated for a cut to his face. Crowe was charged with "fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon" (the telephone). He was sentenced to probation and paid about US$100,000 to settle the civil lawsuit to the concierge. He **blamed** his state of mind on "the combination of **jet lag**, loneliness and adrenalin" and said he "wasn't **aiming**" at the concierge. ✪

GLOSSARY

fame *n*
the state of being famous
dumb *adj*
stupid
shoplifting *n*
stealing from shops
to hire *vb*
to pay money for someone's services
an attorney *n US*
a lawyer
plea-bargaining *n*
an arrangement in which the prosecution and defence come to an agreement
a trial *n*
a legal process to decide if someone is innocent or guilty
a jury *n*
the 12 people who decide if someone is innocent or guilty
to acquit someone *exp*
to say that someone is innocent of all charges
burglary *n*
the crime of entering a house with the intent of stealing
a fine *n*
money you must pay as punishment for committing a crime
drug counselling *n*
therapy and advice to help people with drug problems
road rage *n*
intense and extreme anger that drivers feel while driving
to smash *vb*
to break something by hitting it
a roof *n*
the top part of the car
a windshield *n*
the glass at the front of the car – the driver looks out of it while driving
to take someone to court *exp*
to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation
to cut someone off/up *exp*
to drive in front of someone suddenly causing the other driver to stop
to drop charges *exp*
to stop all criminal proceedings against someone
an out-of-court settlement *n*
an agreement between lawyers representing both parties
lewd conduct *n*
behaviour that is considered to be inappropriate
a mug-shot *n*
a photo the police take of a person who is charged with a crime
probation *n*
a period during which you must not commit any other crime
to run through a red light *exp*
to drive even though the light is red
to put your foot down *exp*
to push down on the accelerator so you can drive faster
a misdemeanour *n*
a minor crime
assault *n*
physical violence against someone
to blame something *exp*
to say that something is responsible for a negative situation
jet lag *n*
the feeling of tiredness that you get after travelling through a time zone
to aim *vb*
if you are "aiming" a weapon at someone, you are trying to hit that person with the weapon

This month: on the plane.

TRACK 7

Basic English

Useful Expressions

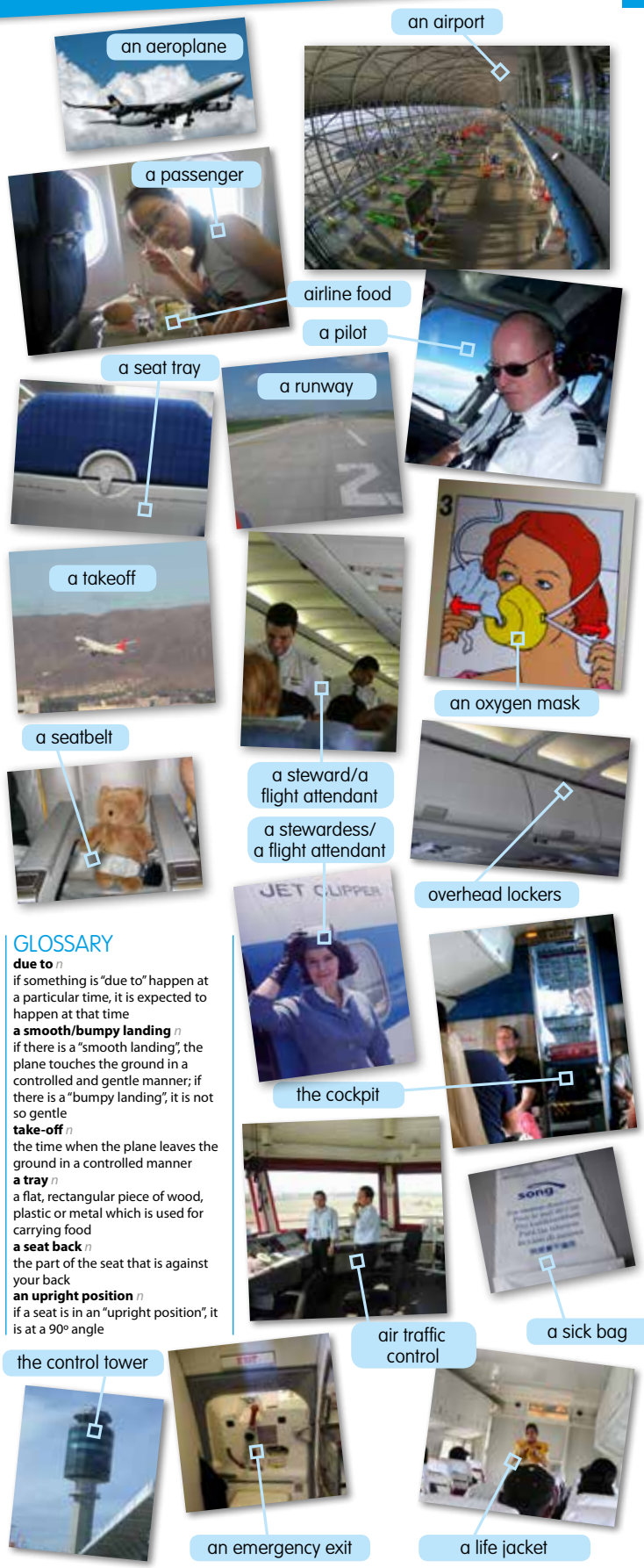
Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

What you ask/say

- I think this is my seat.
- Could you bring me a blanket, please?
- I think you've taken my seat belt.
- Could you help me put this bag in the overhead locker, please?
- There's no more room in the overhead lockers.
- What time are we **due to** land?
- I'm supposed to be connecting to another flight. Do you know where I have to go?
- Excuse me. Do you have a sick bag, please?
- Do you have any games for children?
- Can I pay in euros?
- I'll have a coffee/tea/coke, please.
- Do you have a vegetarian menu?
- Do you have any headphones so I can watch the film?
- That was a **smooth/ bumpy landing**.

What you hear

- Can I see your boarding card, please?
- Would you like me to look after that bag for you?
- Please make sure your seat belts are fully-fastened.
- This is the captain speaking…
- Cabin staff prepare for **take-off**.
- Please fasten your seat belts, fold your **trays**, and put your **seat backs** in the **upright position**.
- Please remain seated until the cabin lights are switched off.
- Please switch off all mobile phones.
- What would you like to drink?
- Would you like any ice with that?
- That'll be X euros, please.
- Would you like any duty-free goods?
- Ladies and gentlemen, we hope you've had a pleasant flight..



GLOSSARY

due to *n*
if something is "due to" happen at a particular time, it is expected to happen at that time

a smooth/bumpy landing *n*
if there is a "smooth landing", the plane touches the ground in a controlled and gentle manner; if there is a "bumpy landing", it is not so gentle

take-off *n*
the time when the plane leaves the ground in a controlled manner

a tray *n*
a flat, rectangular piece of wood, plastic or metal which is used for carrying food

a seat back *n*
the part of the seat that is against your back

an upright position *n*
if a seat is in an "upright position", it is at a 90º angle

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AMAZING WORLD



Bristol is England's best city in the southwest. It's the birth place of actor Cary Grant, home to the Clifton **Suspension Bridge** (designed by legendary structural engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel), and home to one of England's great universities. Come and find out more about Bristol. By Laura Hanbury

Today and Yesterday

Often overlooked in favour of her more gentile sister, Bath, Bristol is a city with great history, a place where antiquity and modernity sit hand in hand, and where students and locals invariably **rub each other up the wrong way**.

Bristol has a rich history as an important port and a centre for international maritime trade. From as early as the 14th century it was a centre for international trade with Spain, Portugal and Iceland amongst others. Merchants from Bristol **amassed enormous wealth** from imports and exports and this is reflected in the city's grand buildings and the impressive **Georgian crescents** of **chic** Clifton Village.



Today, however, the main export is drum 'n' bass, which is a style of music made popular by home grown DJs like Roni Size and DJ Tricky. Bristol's music scene is a strong influence on the city's nightlife, shopping and fashion. Bristol is also home to Wallace and Gromit, the Oscar-winning duo created by Aardman Animations.

City Districts



The city's character is reflected in the diversity of the different districts. Clifton Village sits high on the hill above the city centre and the docks. With its beautiful Georgian crescents and grand squares, Clifton is home to **posh** students. It has lots of restaurants, chic boutiques and **cosy** cafés.

On the other side of Whiteladies Road are Redland and Cotham, where the University of Bristol has the majority of its Departments and the main library. It's also a favourite spot for students as there are nice pubs, sandwich bars and a couple of great **greasy spoon cafés**. In fact, a trip to Bristol wouldn't be complete without breakfast at St Michael's Café on St Michaels Hill. Students love it for the cheap food, the rock 'n roll murals, and the 10p **jukebox**. Once you're done **filling up**, **pop across the road** for a pint at the famous Highbury Vaults.



Other Districts

Beyond Redland you'll find the Gloucester Road, a paradise for lovers of anything **retro** and **vintage**. The road is a Mecca of second-hand clothes, retro furniture and records. Spend an afternoon **bargain hunting** in the many second-hand vintage shops, and take a break at some of Bristol's more alternative cafés and bars.

Perhaps the most notorious area of the city is St Pauls, the site of the Bristol riots and often thought of as the city's darker side. It is now undergoing some major renovation and you'll find some great clubs and bars amongst St Pauls' squares. The strong Caribbean presence is reflected in the area's cuisine and the dominant reggae and dub music scene.

Bristol Top 11

Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Situated at the top of Park Street, this museum is home to a diverse collection of objects ranging from Egyptian Mummies to priceless works of art. Be sure to have a look at the World Wildlife Gallery which is filled with examples of endangered species including local favourite, Alfred the Gorilla.



Brunel's SS Great Britain
Take a walk around Brunel's great ship, which is a design masterpiece originally built in Bristol's Docks. The ship is now a museum and won the Museum of the Year Award 2006... so it must be worth a visit.

Bristol Zoo
The city's zoo is in 12 acres of beautiful gardens. It is a great way to spend an afternoon. The zoo is the fifth oldest in the world and the oldest outside of a capital city.

Blaise Castle and Grounds
On the north west edge of Bristol near Henbury, you'll find Blaise castle and its spectacular grounds. The 600 acres of parkland are shrouded in folklore and mystery and make it the perfect place

BRISTOL



to escape the **bustle of the city**. Be sure to visit the Folly, a small Gothic Castle built in 1766 that sits on Blaise Hill.



Bristol's Harbour Side
A stroll along the harbour will tell you a lot about the city's history and its future. The harbour side is developing into the modern face of Bristol with bars, restaurants and museums.

Bristol Old Vic
The Old Vic is the city's oldest theatre. It was originally opened in 1766 as an illegal back-street theatre until it was granted a royal theatre licence in 1778 by George III.

The Tobacco Factory
The Tobacco Factory, south of the harbour in Bedminster, is now a theatre, a bar and a café. The industrial-style bar plays good music, and the café serves up Mediterranean **nosh**.

Cribbs Causeway
If shopping is **your thing**, there's no shortage of original shops around Park Street and the Gloucester road to keep you occupied; but if you want everything in one place, Cribbs Causeway Shopping Centre just north of Bristol has 135 shops and 17 cafés all under one roof.

Bristol's Parks
Bristol has so many parks and open spaces you'd be hard pushed to see all of them. However, you should make time for a walk on the Downs at the top of Whiteladies Road, and a visit to Brandon Hill Park just off Park Street on Great George Street. It is home to the 30-metre high Cabot's Tower, where you get the best views of the city.

Architecture and Monuments
Make time to take in the city's many beautiful buildings and monuments. A walk around the city will give you plenty to look at, from the Wills memorial building at the top of Park Street to the Christmas steps that lead down towards the centre. You can join an organised tour or just wander at your



own pace making time for plenty of cafe stops.

The Avon Gorge Hotel
One thing you must do before leaving Bristol, is to have tea or lunch at the Avon Gorge Hotel overlooking the Suspension Bridge. The view is fantastic, and the hotel is superb.



Famous residents

Banksy, the UK's most well-known graffiti artist, is originally from Bristol. He uses derelict buildings and walls as his canvas and you can see his art showcased on a number of the city's buildings. He has amassed a cult following despite the controversy surrounding his work. His supporters believe his graffiti should be valued as great art while others think it is simply vandalism. This cheeky and anonymous artist even managed to sneak one of his pieces into an exhibition at the Tate Modern.



Banksy



Massive Attack

Massive Attack is one of the UK's most successful bands and they were born and bred in Bristol.



Tricky

The city is famous as the home of Drum 'n' Bass, and Massive Attack and DJs Roni Size and Tricky were some of the pioneers of this movement. The band haven't been tempted away from the city by the bright lights of the capital, and even opened their own bar just off Park Street. ✪



Roni Size

GLOSSARY

a suspension bridge *n*
a bridge that is constructed by using ropes or metal cables
to rub someone up the wrong way *exp*
to annoy or irritate someone
to amass enormous wealth *exp*
to become very, very rich
Georgian *adj*
built in the 18th century during which there were three British kings called George (George I, II, III)
a crescent *n*
a street or row of houses that is built in a curve
chic *adj*
fashionable
posh *adj*
upper class and sophisicated
cosy *adj*
warm, welcoming and small
a greasy spoon café *n*
a cheap restaurant serving fried food
a jukebox *n*
a machine that plays records if you put money in it
to fill up *phr vb*
if you "fill yourself up", you eat enough food so you aren't hungry
to pop across the road *exp*
to cross the road quickly
retro *adj*
"retro" clothes, music and objects are based on the styles of the past
vintage *adj*
"vintage" cars or objects are old but admired and valued
bargain hunting *n*
looking for the cheapest price for something
the bustle of the city *exp*
the stress, noise and chaos of the city
nosh *n inform*
food
your thing *exp*
the type of thing that you like

TRACK 8

LIVING ABROAD: BRISTOL

An interview with someone who has lived abroad or in another city. Alice was a student at Bristol University. She is here to tell us her favourite things about the city.

Alice, what were your first impressions of Bristol?

Well, to be honest, I didn't really **take to** Bristol that much in the beginning. I'd **got used to** being in London, and **I guess** suddenly being in a much smaller city made me feel a bit claustrophobic. But after a couple of weeks I started to **get a feel for** the city, and I realised that I couldn't compare it to London, it was a **totally different kettle of fish** and it had a different rhythm to the capital. Now, I look back on my three years in Bristol with very fond memories. The only thing I don't miss is the rain.



What would you say is the city's most defining feature?

Well, that's a **pretty tough** question to answer. There's no one defining feature because it's such a diverse place. But I think the thing that most defines Bristol is probably the music scene. People are defined by the music they listen to, it affects the way they dress, where they go out and also where they live.

Where did you live in Bristol?

I lived just off Cotham Hill for a year and then on St Michael's Hill for a year, close to the University and kind of on the edge of Redland. It was a great area to live as it was minutes from the bars and restaurants on Whiteladies Road, a short walk to Park Street and also walking distance to Clifton Village and Gloucester Road.



What was your favourite part of the city?

I liked a lot of different places in the city. Obviously Clifton Village is beautiful and there are lots of nice cafés and shops, but I also liked the Gloucester Road. I think it depends **what you're in the mood for**. On a beautiful sunny day you want to lie on the Downs, the huge park at the top of Whiteladies Road, and then go for Pimms on the terrace of the Avon Gorge Hotel, overlooking the Suspension Bridge. On a cold wet day you want to **hit** Bristol's cosiest café, the Boston Tea Party on Park Street, and eat home-made organic cakes.

Bristol's best kept secrets?

Aaaah, now that's easy. For pizza you have to go to Sergio's, which is hiding just below Park Street on Frogmore Street. The Pizzas are **huge**, delicious and cheap, and best of all it's **BYO**. For a long lunch on Saturday, the Primrose Café in the Clifton Arcade in Clifton Village is **unbeatable**. For the infamous Exhibition cider which is only served in half pints, head to the Coronation Tap in Clifton.



For art house films, head to the Watershed which sits on the **waterfront** at the bottom of Park Street. They always show original films, have interesting talks and there's a really nice bar and restaurant too.

For a more **upmarket** dinner try the Mud Dock Café and Restaurant down at the docks. It sits above a bike shop and has a bike-themed décor. The food is good, the cocktails are great and it's **not too pricey**.

Another favourite has to be Yia Mass, a Greek Bar on Park Street with very flexible opening hours and a great atmosphere. The traditional Greek **plate-smashing dances** that take place suddenly and spontaneously add to the fun and chaos. They happen **at the owner's discretion** and are usually determined by the quantities of ouzo he has consumed that night.

Are we out of time yet? I could go on…



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GLOSSARY

to take to a person/place *exp*
to start to like a person/place
to get used to something *exp*
to become accustomed to something
I guess *exp*
I suppose
to get a feel for something *exp*
to start to understand how something works
a totally different kettle of fish *exp*
something completely different
pretty tough *exp*
quite difficult
what you're in the mood for *exp*
what you want to do
to hit *vb inform*
to go to
huge *adj*
very, very big
BYO *abbr*
bring your own bottle
unbeatable *adj*
that cannot be better
the waterfront *n*
the area next to the sea/river
upmarket *adj*
expensive and of good quality
not too pricey *exp*
not too expensive
a plate-smashing dance *n*
a Greek dance that involves breaking plates
at the owner's discretion *n*
when the owner wants

TRACK 9

USEFUL ADVICE



Learn how to entertain yourself with these fun activities. This month: how to annoy a waiter or waitress.



Have a four-hour lunch and leave no **tip**.

Ask the waiter or waitress, "Excuse me, why are you a waiter? Is it because you are a really bad singer, or a really bad actor?"

After the waiter describes each item on the menu, shout "**rubbish**!" but continue smiling.

Whenever the waiter walks by, **cough** and **mutter**, "No tip tonight, **buster**".

When the waiter isn't looking, **snap your fingers** really loudly. When he looks round, **pretend it wasn't you**.

While talking to the waiter, casually **wipe** your hands on his apron or shirt front.

Tie the **tablecloth** around your neck and say, "You wouldn't charge Superman for dinner, would you?"

As the waiter walks to the kitchen, scream, "He's **gonna spit** in the soup!"

When the **bill** arrives, say, "I've just got three words to say to you: eat the bill."

What fun!



GLOSSARY

a tip *n*
money you leave for a waiter/ waitress at the end of a meal if you are satisfied with the service
rubbish *n inform*
very bad
to cough *vb*
to force air out of your mouth
to mutter *vb*
to speak very softly and unclearly, often when you are complaining
buster *n inform*
my friend
to snap your fingers *exp*
to make a sharp sound by moving your middle finger quickly across your thumb
to pretend it wasn't you *exp*
to act as if something wasn't you
to wipe *vb*
to clean, often with a cloth
a tablecloth *n*
a piece of material placed over the table
gonna *abbr inform*
going to
to spit *vb*
to force liquid out of your mouth
a bill *n*
a formal piece of paper informing you how much you must pay

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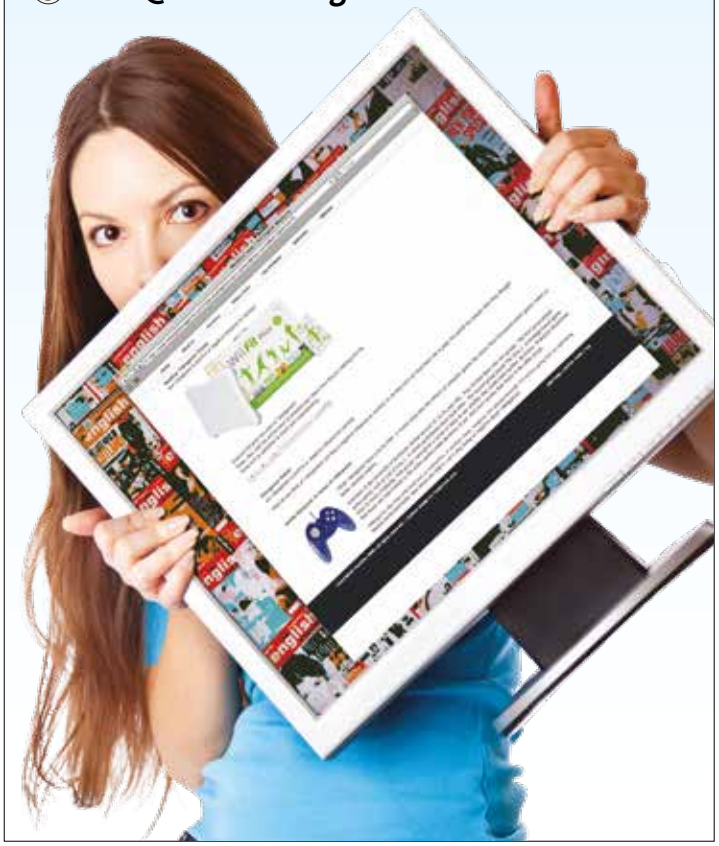
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TRACK 10

STUPID CRIMINALS

Here's the first part on a new series on stupid criminals. Learn how not to do it.

Car Busters

Two men from Nebraska tried to pull the front off a **cash machine**. They attached a **chain** from the cash machine to the **bumper** of their car. However, instead of pulling the front of the cash machine off, they pulled off their bumper. In a panic, they left the scene and drove home, leaving their bumper with the **licence plate** still attached to it. It didn't take long for the police to catch them.



Blast Off

John Garvis **broke into** a house in London to steal **copper pipes**. However, while he was pulling off the pipes, he broke a **gas main** without realising it. Hearing the sound of the escaping gas, he lit a **match** to see what was happening and **blew up** the house. Amazingly, he survived. Even more amazingly, he returned the next day for more pipes and **ran straight into** the police, who were investigating the **blast**. Garvis was jailed for four and a half years.



Golf Goof

When German tourist Hans Olaf arrived at **customs** in Heathrow airport, he was carrying a heavy **suitcase** and a large golf bag. Customs officials asked him to open the main suitcase. As Olaf was opening his bag, the officials started asking Olaf about golf. And it was then that the customs officials realised that Olaf **didn't know the first thing about** golf. As a final test, one of the customs officials asked Olaf to demonstrate his **swing**, which Olaf did by swinging the golf club as if it were a baseball bat. A substantial amount of narcotics were found in Olaf's golf bag.



Fire Proof

In 1993, Gordon James was arrested in Norfolk, Virginia, and charged with breaking into his next-door neighbour's house. James had stolen a television, camera, and video recorder, and then **set the house on fire** in an attempt to destroy any evidence **linking** him to the theft. Unfortunately for James, his house shared a wall with the neighbour's house, and as both houses suffered heavy damage, part of the wall separating the houses had fallen down. Police, fire-fighters and the neighbours could clearly see all stolen equipment inside James' living room. .

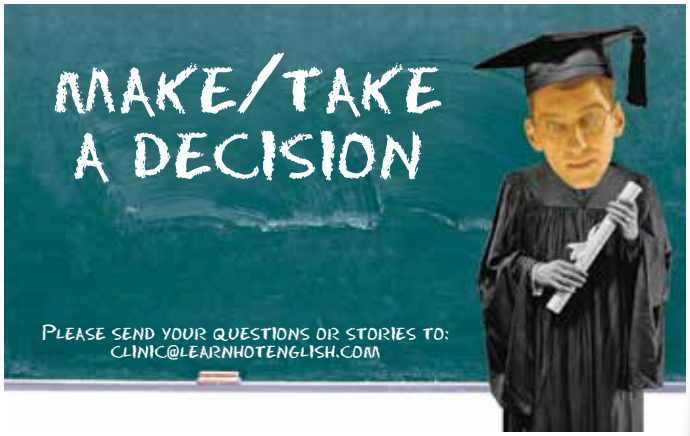


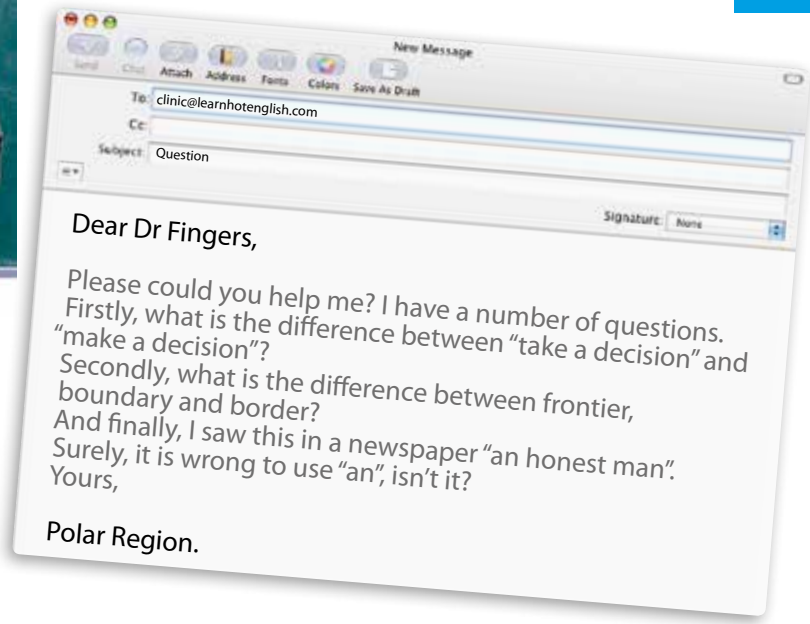
GLOSSARY

a cash machine *n*
a machine you can use to take money from your bank account
a chain *n*
a series of metal rings connected together in a line
a bumper *n*
the back or front part of a car that protects the car if it hits an object
a licence plate *n*
the object at the front and back of a car with information (numbers and letters) about the car
to break into (a house) *exp*
to enter a house illegally and with the intention of stealing something
copper *n*
a type of metal
a pipe *n*
a metal tube for carrying liquid/gas
a gas main *n*
a pipe which supplies gas to a building
a match *n*
a thin piece of wood used for making fire
to blow up *phr vb*
to destroy a building with an explosion
to run straight into someone *exp*
to meet someone suddenly and unexpectedly
a blast *n*
an explosion
customs *n*
the government organisation that collects taxes on goods entering a country
a suitcase *n*
a large bag often used for carrying clothes when going on holiday
didn't know the first thing about *exp*
didn't know anything about…
a swing *n*
a movement you make with a golf club before hitting the ball
to set the house on fire *exp*
to cause a fire in a house
to link *vb*
to connect

DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC







Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic.

Dear Polar Region,
Thank you very much for your e-mail. Of course, I would be delighted to help you with your questions.

Decisions

Firstly, is it "take" or "make" a decision? The simple answer to that is it depends on your nationality. Let me elaborate. Generally, the Americans use the expression "make a decision", and in British English "take a decision" is also possible (the British use both forms). To Americans, "take a decision" sounds very strange, so they may tell you that it isn't correct. But I can assure you that in British English it is acceptable English and you'll find it used on the BBC website, and in magazines such as the *Economist*. However, as far as I know, there is not yet a "decision-taking process", so you'll have to stick with a "decision-making process".

Divisions

Now, let's move on to your second question. Generally speaking, all these words (frontier, boundary and border) are synonyms and are interchangeable at times. However, "frontier" is often used to refer to a political division. For example:
a) We crossed the frontier between France and Spain at Hendaye.
b) They crossed the frontier between Italy and France.
A "border" generally refers to a division between countries that is created by a natural feature. For example:
a) The Río Grande forms the border between the US and Mexico.
b) The border between much of Spain and France is formed by the Pyrenees.
And finally, a "boundary" refers to a division in a small area such as a village or a farm.







For example:
a) This wood marks the boundary between Sir Guy's land and Sir Fred's land.
b) This line marks the boundary between the two villages.

Articles

And finally, I move on to your last question. Yes, you are right to say that generally speaking we use "an" before a word that starts with a vowel. For example, "an apple, an orange, an elephant". However, some words which start with a consonant form a vowel sound, and as such, they need the article "an". For example, we say "an MSc" because the letter "M" is pronounced "em" with the vowel sound produced by the letter "e". Here are some more examples: "An FA Cup match, an MA student, an honour, an honest man, an hors d'oeuvre." Likewise, there are some words that start with a vowel, but have a consonant sound. For example, "university" which is pronounced with the consonant sound "you", and as such requires "a" rather than "an". Here are some more examples: "a user, a university, a universe, a ewe (a female sheep)".
Well, Polar Region, I really hope my explanations have helped resolve your linguistic problems.
Yours, Dr Fingers. ✪

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Authentic conversations to help improve your listening skills

TRACK 12

British bar chat

Marijuana



This month, two British people are talking about marijuana. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions:

1. What does one of the speakers say in favour of marijuana?
2. What does the other speaker say against marijuana?

Andy: I just read that, erm, marijuana is now one of the biggest **cash crops** in the US?

Jen: Really?

Andy: So it seems like, yeah, it's **taking over**.

Jen: All right, well, not really, I think it's quite good, **actually**.

Andy: But, you know, marijuana **leads to** other drugs, doesn't it. You know, start on marijuana, next, next month, **you're on cocaine**, then you're on heroin…

Jen: Oh, **come on!** People say that, but it's not really the case. I've been taking it for about five years now.

Andy: Yeah, bit **slow in the head**, aren't you. Come on, you know, you can't, no, but, you know, seriously, **you can always tell** the type of person who smokes marijuana. They're, like, so **laid-back**, you can't imagine them ever getting a **real job**.

Jen: Oh, **that's rubbish**. Come on, I work as a full-time secretary. I have to have **my head screwed on**.

Andy: Yeah, OK, but maybe you don't smoke too much. But you get these guys you can tell they've been smoking **loads** every day. They're, you know, perhaps, you know, maybe they're musicians or something.

Jen: Yeah, but it's like the same with everything, you know. If you drink too much, you'll **bust your liver**. You just shouldn't, you can't smoke too much.

Andy: Yeah, I don't know. It seems kind of like one of those drugs you can get addicted on.

Jen: You can get addicted to anything. You can get addicted to nicotine.

Andy: Yeah, right, so have you got any on you at the moment?

Jen: Yeah, I do actually.

Andy: OK. **Roll up.**

GLOSSARY

a cash crop *n*
a crop (a food) that is grown and sold
to take over *phr vb*
to dominate
actually *exp*
really
to lead to another thing *n*
if X leads to Y, X causes Y
you're on cocaine *exp*
you are taking cocaine regularly
come on *exp*
people use this expression when they hear something that they don't agree with or they think is silly
slow in the head *exp*
a bit stupid
you can always tell *exp*
you can always see
laid-back *adj*
relaxed and calm
a real job *n*
a serious job that requires mental or physical effort
that's rubbish *exp*
that is stupid
to have your head screwed on *exp*
to be a sensible, rational, logical person
loads *exp*
lots of
to bust your liver *exp*
to destroy your liver (the organ in your body that processes your blood)
to roll up *phr vb*
to make a cigarette with marijuana in it

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Authentic conversations by native American speakers

TRACK 13

US bar chat



OJ Simpson

This month, two young Americans are talking about OJ Simpson. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions:

1. What does one of the speakers say in favour of what the newspaper has done?
2. What does the other speaker say against what the newspaper has done?

Janet: Have you heard about OJ Simpson? I've heard that he's publishing a really interesting book. It's like a virtual confession. It's almost like he's **pretending** that he really did murder his ex-wife.

Leigh: I did hear that the other day in the news. Isn't that horrible?

Janet: No. I think, I think **it's fine**. **I mean**, the *New York Post* has said that he's just trying to make some **blood money**, but I totally don't agree with that, though.

Leigh: I completely agree. This family is still **grieving** and I don't think they should be **subjected to** this kind of thing.

Janet: What do you mean? I mean, **so what if** he's making blood money? I mean, the poor guy was subjected to a really public **trial** and I don't see why he shouldn't **make a bit of money** from it.

Leigh: OK. But he can't be **tried** again, so we should **put this topic to rest** and not make the family **go through** it again.

Janet: Why should we put it to rest? It's something that the public's really interested in. I mean, what's better than a little bit of celebrity scandal?

Leigh: OK, it might be **hypothetical**, a hypothetical "I did it", but many of the members of the public still believe that he's **guilty**.

Janet: But it's clear that this book is hypothetical. I mean, the book specifically says that this is a hypothetical story.

Leigh: That's fine but it's still **raising the same question** that the trial did and it's done.

Janet: Yeah, but I think it's something that people are still interested in. I mean, people don't have to buy the book if they don't want to. They're only going to buy it if they're interested.

Leigh: Yeah, and many people have been asked not to buy it, haven't they?

Janet: I don't think so. That's not true, is it? They haven't been asked not to buy it. I don't think that that's something you can do in a country where there's freedom of expression. He can publish this book if he wants to.

Leigh: **I guess** it is freedom of speech but I still think it's a horrible topic to have to still think about.

Janet: OK, well then, I guess you're not going to buy the book!

Leigh: Not at all!

GLOSSARY

to pretend *vb*
to act as if something is true even if it isn't
it's fine *exp*
it's OK
I mean *exp*
people often use this expression when changing topics, or for emphasis
blood money *n*
money obtained through killing someone
to grieve *vb*
if a person is "grieving", he/she is sad because something tragic has happened
to subject someone to something *exp*
to force someone to experience something unpleasant
so what if *exp*
it is not important to me that
a trial *n*
a legal process to decide if someone is innocent or guilty
to make money from something *exp*
to generate a profit from something
to be tried *exp*
to be in a legal process to decide if you are innocent or guilty
to put something to rest *exp*
to stop talking about something or referring to it
to go through something *exp*
to experience something bad
hypothetical *adj*
based on possible ideas, not real ones
guilty *adj*
not innocent
to raise a question *exp*
to ask a question
I guess *exp*
I think; I imagine

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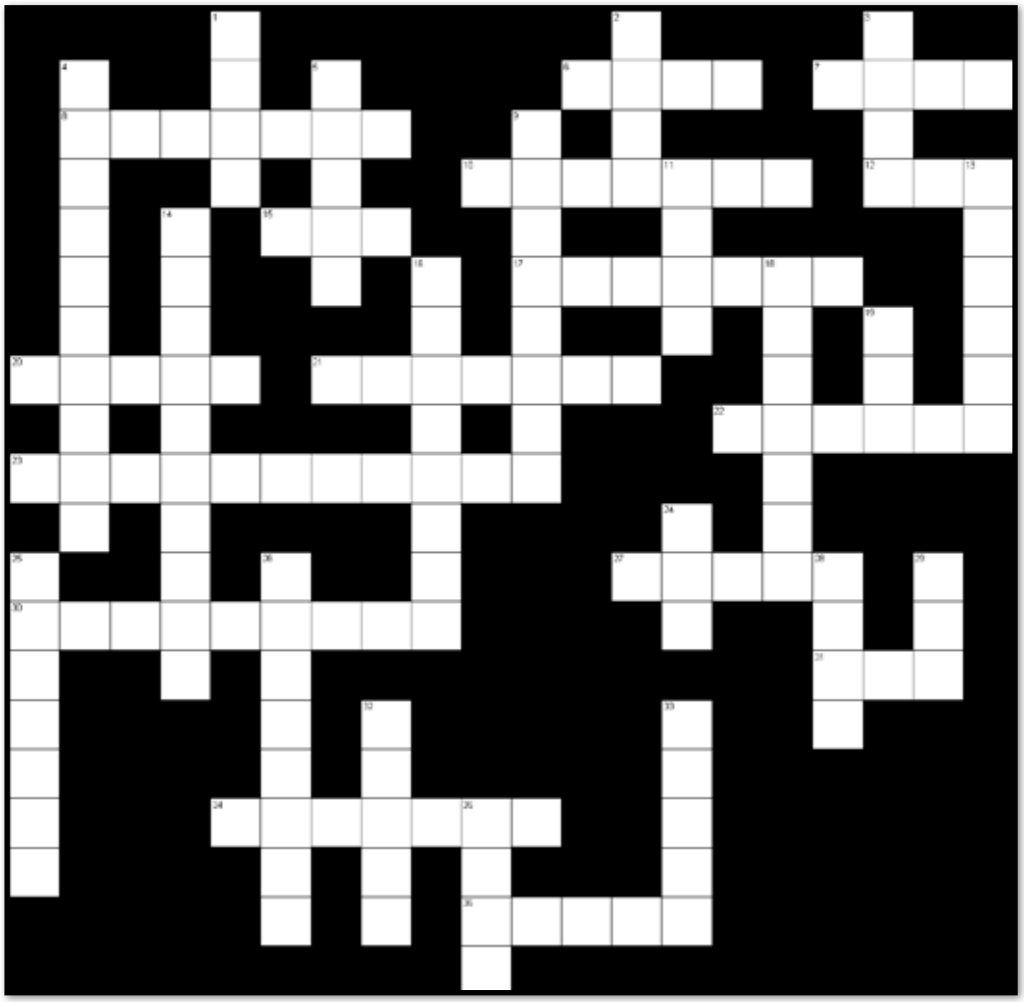
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CROSSWORD

Answers on page 34



Across

6: To like something very much = to be f_____ of something
7: To say exactly what you are thinking = to speak your mi_____.
8: The crime of not paying taxes to the government = tax ev_____.
10: A machine that plays records if you put money in it = a juk_____.
12: To try to remain anonymous; to try not to be noticed = to keep a _____ profile
15: A prohibition = a b_____
17: To do something even though it may be unpleasant = to go th_____ with something
20: The type of thing that you like doing = your th_____
21: Looking for the cheapest price for something = bar_____ hunting
22: The back or front part of a car that protects the car = the bum_____
23: Not considering other people's feelings = insen_____
27: To start to cry suddenly = to bu_____ into tears
30: Offensive to a group or a minority = politically inco_____
31: To cause something to burn = to s_____ something on fire
34: The set of numbers and letters at the front and back of a car = a li_____ plate
36: Quick or fast = sw_____

Down

1: Warm, comfortable and welcoming = co_____
2: Hurry up / be quick = get a m_____ on
3: To eat until you aren't hungry = to f_____ yourself up
4: New and different = refre_____
5: A person from the area you are referring to = a lo_____
9: A large bag for carrying clothes when you go on holiday = a sui_____
11: To destroy something with an explosion = to bl_____ something up
13: It is not surprising that… = no wo_____ that…
14: A person who gives advice on personal problems = a coun_____
16: A person who says exactly what he/she is thinking = a stra_____ talker.
18: Because = on the grou_____ that
19: To cross the road quickly and for a short time = to p_____ across the road
24: To meet someone unexpectedly = to r_____ into someone
25: Prepared to do something = wil_____ to do something
26: Walking in the mountains as a sport = tr_____
28: A job that you must do or complete = a ta_____
29: To fire a gun = to l_____ off a gun
32: To enter a house with the intention of stealing = to bre_____ into a house
33: Should be banned = ou_____ to be banned
35: A machine that permits you to withdraw money from your bank account by using your bank card = a c_____ machine

Jokes
1F 2E 3G 4A
5H 6C 7D 8B

British Bar Chat
1. One of the speakers says that marijuana is OK in small doses, and that you have to be careful. She says that you can get addicted to anything.
2. The other speaker doesn't like marijuana because it leads to other drugs, and it makes people too laid-back.

US Bar Chat
1. One of the speakers says that it's OK that OJ Simpson is making money from this, that the public are interested in it, and that he has every right to publish the book if he wants to.
2. The other speaker doesn't like it because the family is still grieving, they should put the topic to rest, the family shouldn't go through it again, and many people believe he was actually guilty.

Trivia Matching
1H 2G 3L 4C 5D 6K 7A 8B 9E 10I 11M 12F 13J

Typical Dialogues
1. Gordon wants to do some off-piste skiing.
2. Michaela doesn't want to follow Gordon because she thinks it's too dangerous.

Quiz Analysis
Mostly "a" = You take pride in your home. It would be a pleasure to stay with you.
Mostly "b" = Have you ever wondered why you never get any visitors?

Fluency Practice
B:
1. He's as slippery as an eel.
2. I think it's a red herring.
3. We were packed like sardines.
4. They're just small fry.
5. The world is your oyster.
6. Watch out for the sharks.



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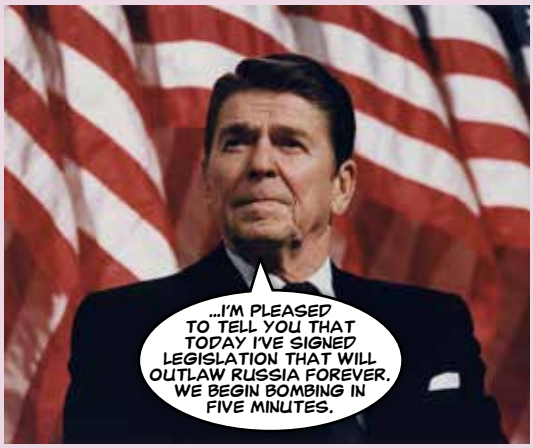
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Great Gaffes

Have you ever said something stupid? Or made a comment when it would have been better to say nothing? Welcome to the world of the "gaffe" (a stupid or **insensitive** comment or action, often done at the worst possible time). Some people just can't stop themselves from making gaffes. But even the most careful of us occasionally "put our foot in it". Some of the best experts are those in front of the world's media. Here are some really great gaffes. By Rob Julian.

Many years ago an Australian TV presenter, Ian Meldrum, was interviewing Prince Charles. The interview seemed to be relaxed and informal, or so Meldrum thought:
Meldrum: *(smiling)* I saw your **mum** in her car the other day.
Prince Charles: *(in a very cold voice)* I believe you are referring to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.
Meldrum: *(not smiling now)* Erm, yes.



Politicians are no better it seems. Ronald Reagan was doing a microphone **sound check** before a speech once and said, "My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you that today I've **signed legislation** that will **outlaw** Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes."

Mr Blair's deputy, John Prescott, is renowned as a **straight-talker**, and has been accused at various times of making **ill-advised** comments or gestures. At one point he compared a **crab** in a **jar** to his party rival Peter Mandelson, joking, "You know what his name is? He's called Peter."

US presidential candidate Dan Quayle once attended a school spelling competition. In front of TV cameras, he "corrected" a child's spelling of the word potato by adding an "e" to make it "potatoe". Luckily, he never became president.

Even the US military, which usually tries to **keep a low profile,** can't control all of its spokespeople. During a press conference, Lieutenant General James Mattis admitted, "Actually, it's quite a lot of fun to fight; you know, it's a **hell of a hoot**. I like **brawling**; it's fun to shoot some people."
Well, at least he was **speaking his mind**.

More recently, Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany was **caught on tape** admitting that his government had **accomplished** "nothing" and had been lying for the last year and a half to two years. The comments **sparked riots** in the capital Budapest, and opponents called for Mr Gyurcsany's **resignation**.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has got himself into trouble several times. He once said that a congresswoman's **hot temper** was **down to** her mixture of black and Latino blood. He was forced to **apologise** for the comment.



Leona Helmsley, the US businesswoman often referred to as "the Queen of **Mean**", once said this about taxes, "We don't pay taxes. Only the little people pay taxes." Later, in 1992, she was sentenced to four years in prison and fined $7.1m for **tax evasion**.

And of course, we can't end an article on political gaffes without mentioning George W. Bush. Here's a comment of his on poor people, "First, let me make it very clear, poor people aren't necessarily killers. Just because you happen to be not rich, it doesn't mean you're **willing to** kill." ✪



"Actually, it's quite a lot of fun to fight; you know, it's a hell of a hoot. I like brawling; it's fun to shoot some people"

GLOSSARY

insensitive *adj*
without considering other people's feelings
mum *n inform*
mother
a sound check *n*
a technical check to see that the microphone and sound is working
to sign legislation *n*
to put your name on a new law
to outlaw *vb*
to say that a government/country is illegal
a straight talker *n*
someone who speaks directly and honestly
ill-advised *adj*
not a good idea
a crab *n*
a sea creature that has a flat, round body and that walks sideways
a jar *n*
a glass container for liquids or food
to keep a low profile *exp*
to try to remain anonymous
a hell of a hoot *exp inform*
really good fun
to brawl *vb*
to have physical fights
to speak your mind *exp*
to say exactly what you are thinking
caught on tape *exp*
recorded secretly or without the person knowing
to accomplish *vb*
to achieve; to do
to spark riots *exp*
to do something that makes people riot (act violently in the street)
to resign *vb*
to stop working voluntarily
a hot temper n
someone with a "hot temper" becomes angry easily and quickly
down to exp
because of
to apologise *vb*
to say that you are sorry
mean *adj*
cruel; not kind; not generous with money
tax evasion *n*
not paying taxes to the government by using illegal means
willing to *exp*
if you are "willing to" do something, you are prepared to do that thing

Royal Gaffes

Is there anyone in your country who is famous for making gaffes? One of the experts in Britain at making **insensitive** comments is the queen's husband, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip. Prince Philip is well-known for his insensitive and **politically incorrect** comments. Check out these Royal **clangers**.



Prince Charles

Prince Charles seems to have inherited his father's tendency for gaffes. During an interview with Nicholas Witchell of the BBC, the Prince whispered to his sons, who were standing next to him:
"I can't bear that man. I mean he's so awful, he really is."



On being introduced to Lord Taylor of Warwick, who is black and who comes from Birmingham, Prince Philip said:
"And what exotic part of the world do you come from then?"

At a World Wildlife Fund dinner, Prince Philip said:
"If it swims and it's not a submarine the Chinese will eat it."

During an official visit to Russia, and in reference to the Russians, Prince Philip said:
"They murdered half my family."

To members of a Bangladeshi youth club in central London:
"So who's on drugs here?"

At a festival in Cardiff, Prince Philip talking to a group of youngsters from the British **Deaf** Association. They were standing near a Caribbean-style band:
"Deaf? If you are near there, **no wonder** you are deaf."

Commenting on the London Olympics in 2012: "Opening and closing ceremonies **ought to be banned**. They are **absolute nuisances**."

When a Swedish tourist waved to Philip in his carriage and shouted proudly, "Good morning, sir, my little girl is six today!" Prince Philip replied, "**So what!**"
The little girl **burst into tears**.

To an Australian Aborigine:
"Are you still throwing **spears**?"

To a Scottish driving instructor Prince Philip asked:
"How to you keep the **locals off the booze** long enough to get them through the test?"

On being shown an old-fashioned **fuse box**:
"It looks as if it was put in by an Indian."

In 1963 in Kenya, during a ceremony to mark the independence of Kenya, Prince Philip turned to Jomo Kenyatta, the new Kenyan leader, and said:
"Are you sure you want to **go through with** this?"

In Berlin, talking to a student he asked, "Where are you from?" And the young man replied: "Ballyclare in Northern Ireland, sir". Prince Philip asked the same question to another student, who replied, "Ballyclare in Northern Ireland, sir." And Philip said, "At last we've got two Irishmen in the same room agreeing on something."



In 1994 in Belize, as the queen was getting on board the Royal yacht Britannia, Prince Philip said to her:
"**Get a move on!**"

To man in a **wheelchair** at a Buckingham Palace party:
"Why do you have a stick if you're in a wheelchair?"

In 1993, to a Briton he met in Hungary:
"You can't have been here that long – you haven't got a **pot belly**."

In 2001, to a 13-year-old schoolboy: "You're too fat to become an astronaut."

His answer to London's traffic congestion problems:
"We should ban tourists."

During the 1981 recession:
"Everybody was saying we must have more leisure. Now they are complaining they are unemployed."

In 1995, commenting on **stress counselling** for **servicemen**:
"In my day, we didn't have **counsellors** rushing around every time somebody **let off a gun**, asking 'Are you all right? Are you sure you don't have a ghastly problem?'"

Responding to calls for a **weapons ban** after the Dunblane shooting (the massacre of schoolchildren by a man with a gun):
"If a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and **batter** a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which he could do very easily, I mean, are you going to ban cricket bats?"

When asked to stroke a Koala bear in Australia in 1992:
"Oh no, I might catch some ghastly disease."

In 1994, speaking to someone from the Cayman Islands (a group of islands in the Caribbean):
"Aren't most of you descended from pirates?"

Speaking to a student who had been **trekking** in Papua New Guinea:
"You managed not to get eaten then?" ✪

Why the gaffe?

There are many theories on Prince Philip's insensitivity. Phil Dampier, author of the book *The Duke of Hazard: The Wit and Wisdom of Prince Philip*, says that Prince Philip simply doesn't care what people think. Dampier added, "I think that's **refreshing** in this day of politicians and **spin doctors**. He speaks his mind. I don't think he intends to upset people. He could be a little bit over the top sometimes, but it's not intended to offend. I think he just comes from a different era, when you know, he saw some pretty horrible things in World War II, and I think he probably feels that people are a bit too sensitive."

However, others aren't quite so understanding. Dorothy Rowe, a psychologist and author, says she believes the comments are driven by Philip's frustration at his position as **consort**. "When people make hurtful statements passed off as a joke, they are getting rid of aggression, but deny responsibility for any hurt," she said.

And finally, Prince Philip, in his defence says that he likes to make a joke in order to **diffuse the tension** at formal occasions. What do you think?



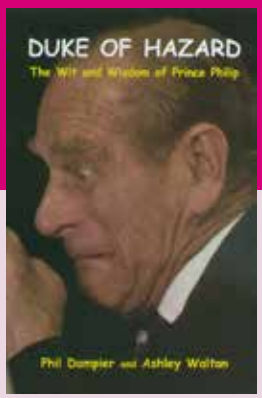


Prince Philip

- Prince Philip's official title is the Duke of Edinburgh.
- His father was Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark, and his mother was Princess Alice of Battenberg.
- Prince Philip was born on 10th June 1921 on top of a kitchen table at Villa Mon Repos on the Greek island of Corfu. He was named Prince Philippos of Greece and Denmark.
- Prince Philip married Queen Elizabeth II in 1947.
- He is referred to as His Royal Highness.



- In addition to his royal duties, Prince Philip is also the patron of many organisations, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the World Wide Fund for Nature. He is a Chancellor of both the University of Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh.
- Prince Philip had four elder sisters, all of whom married German princes.
- Prince Philip's education began at The American School of Paris in Saint-Cloud.
- Aged 12, Prince Philip departed England for Germany, studying at Schule Schloss Salem, a school in Southern Germany. The school was supervised by Kurt Hahn. During the 1930s Hahn , who was Jewish, relocated to Scotland where he founded the school Gordonstoun. Prince Philip also left Germany (in 1936) and went to Gordonstoun where he did well both academically and socially. Prince Philip was so **fond of** the school that he later sent his three boys (Charles, Andrew and Edward) there.
- On 1st May 1939, Prince Philip began his career in the Royal Navy.
- In 1940 he served on HMS Ramillies, patrolling the Indian Ocean and escorting troops from Australia to the Middle East.
- In 1941 he was transferred to HMS Valiant, a battleship stationed in Alexandria, Egypt. Philip acted as the searchlight control on the ship. Later, Philip was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and served during the invasion of Sicily. Philip was also present onboard HMS Whelp at the surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay in 1945.
- Before Philip could marry in 1947, he had to convert from the Greek Orthodox Church to the Anglican Church, and become a naturalised British subject.
- There have been many rumours concerning Prince Philip's private life, including reports that he had an affair with his wife's cousin, Princess Alexandra of Kent, the film star Merle Oberon, and the mother of Sarah Fergusson (the Duchess of York). Another rumour claimed that Philip had a homosexual affair with former President of France Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. All the rumours have been denied.
- As of July 2006, the Duke is the oldest surviving great-great-grandchild of Queen Victoria.



Further reading

If you want to read more on the subject, there's a book full of Prince Philip's gaffes called *The Duke of Hazard: The Wit and Wisdom of Prince Philip* by Phil Dampier and Ashley Walton.

GLOSSARY

insensitive *adj*
without considering other people's feelings
politically incorrect *adj*
offensive to a group or a minority
a clanger *n*
a verbal error or insensitive comment
deaf *adj*
with no ability to hear
no wonder *exp*
it is not surprising
ought to be banned *exp*
should be prohibited
absolute nuisances *exp*
very annoying
so what *exp*
people use this to say that they think something is not important or interesting
to burst into tears *exp*
to start to cry
a spear *n*
a weapon that consists of a long stick with a sharp point at the end
a local *n*
someone from the area you are referring to
off the booze *exp*
if someone is "off the booze", they have stopped drinking alcohol
a fuse box *n*
a box that contains all the fuses for the electric circuits in a building
to go through with something *exp*
to do something even though it may be unpleasant
get a move on *exp*
hurry up! Be quick!
a wheelchair *n*
a chair with wheels for someone who cannot walk
a pot belly *n*
a fat stomach from eating too much or drinking too much beer
stress counselling *n*
psychological help for someone who has been in a stressful situation such as a battle
servicemen *n*
members of the army/navy/airforce
a counsellor *n*
a person who gives advice on personal problems
to let off a gun *exp*
to fire a gun
a weapons ban *n*
a prohibition of guns
to batter someone *exp*
to hit someone many times
to go trekking *exp*
to go walking in the mountains as a sport
refreshing *adj*
new and different
a spin doctor *n*
a person who does public relations for a politician – often covering up mistakes or even being dishonest about things
a consort *n*
a person married to a queen who has no official role
to diffuse the tension *exp*
to stop a situation being tense
fond of something *n*
if you are "fond of something", you like that thing

The section that makes grammar easy and fun

TRACK 23

Active and passive voices
Grammar fun

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the passive voice with past simple verbs.

The Active & Passive Voices

In this month's grammar fun section, we'll be looking at the active and passive voices with past tense verbs. Just to remind you from last month, we use the active voice when the subject of the verb is the thing or person doing the action. For example:



a) She opened the box.
b) He sold the house.
c) They took the car.

However, with the passive voice, the object of the verb becomes the subject. In many cases, it isn't necessary to know who actually did the action. For example:
a) The box was opened (by her).
b) The house was sold (by him).
c) The car was taken (by them).

As you can see, past passives are formed with a conjugation of the verb "to be" (was/were) and a past participle. Compare these examples:

a) They stole the money. (active)
b) The money was stolen. (passive)

a) They cleaned the office yesterday. (active)
b) The office was cleaned yesterday. (passive)

a) They repaired the computer last week. (active)
b) The computer was repaired last week. (passive)

a) She wrote the report three months ago. (active)
b) The report was written three months ago (by her). (passive)

a) They signed the contracts four hours ago. (active)
b) The contracts were signed four hours ago. (passive)

a) They manufactured the cars in Japan. (active)



b) The cars were manufactured in Japan. (passive)

a) They printed the documents. (active)
b) The documents were printed (by them). (passive)

a) They opened a new branch of the bank. (active)
b) A new branch of the bank was opened (by them). (passive)

a) He bought the clothes. (active)
b) The clothes were bought (by him). (passive)







TRACK 24

Fluency Practice

Listen to this master class with Dr Fingers ane one of his students. **Answers** on page 24

A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.
"We surely shall see the sun shine soon."



B: Dictation

Listen to these sentences and write down what you hear.

1. _____ .
2. _____ .
3. _____ .
4. _____ .
5. _____ .
6. _____ .

C: Connected speech

Look at these sentences. See if you can say them with connected speech. Then, listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. I'm thinking of going out tonight.
2. She's thinking of changing jobs.
3. We're thinking of going to the cinema tomorrow.
4. They're thinking of getting a new television.
5. He was thinking of going to live in Paris.
6. She had been thinking of getting up earlier tomorrow.



D: Pronunciation – the "er" sound

Look at these sentences containing words with the "er" sound (girl, third, etc). Try to say the words in each sentence correctly. Then listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. Look at that girl over there.
2. We came third in the competition.
3. That shirt isn't yours, is it?
4. There's a bird in the room.
5. This car is really dirty.

E: Question formation

Make questions according to the instructions. Be as quick as you can and try not to think too much.

1. Ask me how long my coffee break lasts.
2. Ask me how long the film lasts.
3. Ask me how long the television series lasts.
4. Ask me how long the soap in my bathroom lasts.
5. Ask me how long the class lasts.
6. Ask me how long the ink in my printer lasts.
7. Ask me how long the batteries in my digital camera last.
8. Ask me how long a full tank of petrol in my car lasts.

F: Sentence transformation

Listen to these sentences and try to make a question for each one. The question should focus on the underlined information. Do it as quickly as you can.

1. I was born in Brighton. _____?
2. I was born in 1986. _____?
3. I went to a school in London. _____?
4. My father's name is John. _____?
5. I live in Oxford. _____?
6. I work in a publishing company. _____?
7. I've been working there for three years. _____?
8. I've got three children. _____?

G: Revision Drills – Take (with time)

This drill is designed to practise using "to take" and time expressions. Answer the questions as quickly as you can. Remember to answer like this, "It takes X time to do Y".

1. How long does it take you to get up in the morning?
2. How long does it take to cook an egg?
3. How long does it take you to get to work?
4. How long does it take you to get dressed in the morning?
5. How long does it take you to have breakfast?
6. How long does it take to have lunch?
7. How long does it take you to get to sleep at night?
8. How long does it usually take you to make decisions?
9. How long did it take you finish the last report you wrote?
10. How long did it take you to learn how to walk?

TRACK 25

BUSINESS ENGLISH

BUSINESS COLLOCATIONS: EMPLOY.



This month we are looking at some typical words or expressions with the word "employ". Listen and repeat the following expressions.

1. She **is employed by** a large multinational corporation.
2. They only **employ** highly-skilled workers here.
3. As production is up, we'll have to look at employing more people.
4. She's highly-**employable**: she's got a degree from Harvard, and she's very hard-working.
5. He's **unemployable** – he is incapable of getting up in the morning and he hasn't got any qualifications.
6. How many **employees** are there here?
7. Is there a high rate of employee satisfaction here?
8. What's the employee **dropout rate** here?
9. What are **employee-employer relations** like here?
10. What is this firm like as an employer?
11. What's the **employment rate** in your country?
12. The **unemployment rate** has been falling **for six months consecutively**.

Business Dialogue

Now listen to this business English dialogue.

Sarah: Sarah speaking. Who's calling?
Jim: Hi, it's Jim. Hey, I was just going over your strategy report for next year and I had a few questions.
Sarah: **Fire away**.
Jim: Your predictions for the unemployment rate next year, where did you get them?
Sarah: Official statistics published by the government.
Jim: OK, so you calculate that we're going to need to **take on** about 300 more employees next year. Why's that?
Sarah: Production is up 200%. **Do the figure work yourself**. We can't **carry on** like this.
Jim: You also predict poorer employee-employer relations and possible **strike action**...
Sarah: If we don't **address key concerns** that have been repeatedly raised by our staff, there will be problems, yes?
Jim: OK, thanks Sarah. Just wanted to **clear** a few things **up**.
Sarah: No problem. Any time. **Catch you later**.
Jim: Yeah, bye.

GLOSSARY

a figure *n*
is employed by *exp*
if you "are employed" by a company, you work for that company
to employ someone *exp*
if you "employ someone", you give that person a job
employable *adj*
someone who is very qualified and has many skills
unemployable *adj*
someone who has no qualifications and no skills
an employee *n*
a person who works in a company
a dropout rate *n*
the speed at which people leave a company
employee-employer relations *n*
the relationship between management and the workers
the employment rate *n*
the number of people working
the unemployment rate *n*
the number of people with no jobs
for six months consecutively *n*
every month for six months
fire away *exp inform*
start asking me questions
to take on *phr vb*
to employ
do the figure work yourself *exp*
you do the calculations
to carry on *phr vb*
to continue
strike action *n*
if workers take "strike action", they stop working as a protest
to address key concerns *exp*
to think about things that are worrying people and to try to find solutions
to clear up phr *vb*
to try to understand
catch you later *exp inform*
see you later

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